RESOURCES

OF

Shasta County

CALIFORNIA

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SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SHASTA County, California, is situated at the head of the Sacramento Valley, and is the second county south of the boundary between California and Oregon. Its greatest length from east to west is ninety miles, and from north to south, sixty miles. The mountains of the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges cover a large portion of the county on all sides, except the south. They are rugged and lofty, rising in places more than 5,000 feet above the sea level. In the southern portion of the county is a foothill region, half circular in shape, forming the northern end of the Sacramento Valley proper. The central and southern portions of this foothill region consist of table lands, varying in altitude from 500 to 700 feet above sea level, cut by many streams of water forming narrow valleys.

The soil of the valleys is alluvial or sediment, containing a good deal of disintegrated rock or gravel. Color of soil, light red or reddish brown, rich and productive. In these valleys the raisin and best varieties of table grape, the peach, prune, fig and apricot, grow very rapidly, the land producing abundantly large and luscious grapes and fruits. The table lands between valleys are mostly sandy clay loam, granite, and clay soils, timbered—scattering oak and pine and more or less covered on surface with gravel and bowlders. These table lands or mesas are peculiarly suited to the growth and perfection of such fruits as pear, almond, olive, fig, nectarine, quince and apple, and for *fine wine grape*.

While in the high and mountainous part of the county the winters are cold and snow falls to great depth sometimes, in this foothill region grass grows green and roses bloom during the entire winter season from November to April, the lowest thermometer *ever known being 18° above zero*, and that only for an hour or two in the morning, the general range for the winter months being from 36° to 70° above.

No wind storms have ever visited this section. No *serious spring frosts* have occurred in the past. The average yearly rainfall is thirty-eight inches, and is generally distributed during the months of September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May, and some seasons, middle of June, thus rendering irrigation for fruit trees and vineyards unnecessary. During these months the climate is simply superb. From the middle of June to the middle of September the weather is warm. The air is dry and pure, the nights charmingly cool, and men, women and children go on with their work of gathering, curing, packing and shipping the luscious fruit, which is made so *superior by these very climatic conditions*, and suffer no great inconvenience from heat.

The California and Oregon Railroad (San Francisco to Portland) passes through the county, and freight and passenger rates to and from points east and northeast are the same as they are for San Francisco, Sacramento, San Jose or Los Angeles.

The population of the county is 13,000. Schools and churches are ample for the accommodation of all who desire to attend.

Our chief industries are agriculture, fruit growing, stock raising, dairying, mining, quarrying and lumbering.

For healthfulness the county generally is unsurpassed, and some diseases such as asthma, catarrh, bronchitis, and all kinds of lung diseases, are benefitted by a residence here.

The market here is the best. The mining and lumbering interests of this and adjoining counties create a home market for a very large proportion of our products, while the railroad carries the surplus east, by way of Portland, going at once into the cooler climate of higher altitudes, reaching the markets twenty-four hours in advance of shipments from central and southern portions of the State.

The scenery here is of the grandest in this grand State. Health-giving springs abound in every portion of the county. There is no county containing so many and such large streams of water. Fishing and hunting may be indulged in to the heart's content.

The towns of the county on the California and Oregon Railroad are Redding, the County Seat, Cottonwood, Ander-

son and Delta; Millville, 15 miles east of County Seat and 4 miles from Enright Railroad; Burney Valley, Falls City and Glenburn, in the northeast corner of county; Igo and Ono, 20 miles west of California and Oregon Railroad, and Shasta City, 7 miles west of Redding.

Our lands are comparatively cheap, ranging in price from $5 to $100 per acre, according to location, quality and surrounding improvements. For fruit culture 40 acres is large enough, and 20 acres in most instances. It costs in addition to the purchase price about $100 per acre to prepare, plant, fence, cultivate and care for an orchard until it becomes paying; afterwards it will net its owner $100 per acre per year. We need more people and more capital to develop our lands, our mines, our water, our lumber, to build elegant homes amongst us. They need capital from $5,000 upward to do these things, and to such we think we can safely say our county offers a field in which you can do well with your capital. To our more unfortunate fellows, or those with less than $5,000 capital, we extend a welcome, and say you can find homes, but you must expect privation and hard work with it here as elsewhere.

We have delightful drives and picturesque scenery.

We have the earliest fruit in the State.

We have cheap provisions and family supplies so that the cost of living need not be high.

We have a *population* nearly wholly composed of white, native born or naturalized Americans.

We have *roads* naturally macadamized, that are never muddy even at the close of the rainy season.

We have easier access to the great northwest as a market for our fruit than any other part of California.

We have *soil* on the bottom lands along the creeks and Sacramento river that is sediment or alluvium—dark, rich and productive; excellent for wheat, rye, oats, barley, alfalfa, and such fruits as prunes, plums, pears, figs and small fruits. The second bottom land consists of a light red, or reddish brown soil, generally sandy or gravelly, making it light, warm and remarkably easy of cultivation; while all kinds of fruits, vines and cereals are grown on this kind of soil, it is properly best adapted to almonds, peaches, apricots, nectarines, figs and grapes.

We have good wells of water at an average depth of forty feet.

We have tame *flowers* in bloom in our yards twelve months in the year.

We have valleys that are attracting the attention of fruit-growers, and are certainly destined to become a great fruit growing region.

We have water that is pure, soft and cold—no taint of alkali. There is no better water in the world. "Best south of the mountains"—so say the train men.

We append the rainfall for the season from 1886 to and including 1893.

Total for season		1886 and 1887,	23.12 inches.
"	"	" 1887 and 1888,	27.49 inches.
"	"	" 1888 and 1889,	28.88 inches.
"	"	" 1889 and 1890,	62.12 inches.
"	"	" 1890 and 1891,	29.06 inches.
"	"	" 1891 and 1892,	30.29 inches.
"	to April 15,	1892 and 1893,	36.50 inches.

Average annual rainfall from 1886 to 1893, 33.45 inches.

Greatest rainfall for October was in 1889, 12.30 inches.

For December in 1889, 16.06 inches.

For March in 1893, 9.01 inches.

Annual mean temperature for 1892, 62.02.

Maximum temperature for 1892, August 18th, 108°.

Minimum December 21st, 28°.

UPPER STILLWATER

Or Stillwater P. O., is situated on a small stream by the above name. The writer after exploring some of the middle and southern counties came to Shasta, and was so impressed with the natural advantages of this section located some fine natural meadow lands, being surrounded by hill and table lands, which afforded fine grazing for cattle and horses, and have since proven to be the finest fruit lands from which our most delicious fruits are produced without irrigation. Now, after a residence of more than thirty-five years and a more extended observation, and more thoroughly impressed with the natural advantages of this, over the southern portion of the State, lands are comparatively cheap.

FRUIT STATISTICS.

Mr. A. Huntley, of Happy Valley, Olinda P. O., received the season of 1892 one hundred and twenty-six dollars for the peach crop of twenty trees, or six dollars and thirty cents per tree. His whole orchard, including many two-year-old trees, paid him three dollars and fifty cents per tree.

Mr. Hussey, of the same locality and same post office address, sold the fruit the same season from a mixed orchard of five acres for eight hundred dollars.

Mr. S. Hilton gathered from his two-year-old peach trees an average of 100 pounds per tree, and the average weight of the peach was eleven ounces each.

Mr. S. P. Buffom sold four tons of blackberries from four acres of ground for three hundred and fifty dollars.

Mr. Edward Friskie, P. O. Redding, orchard near Anderson, sold the crop from five acres of prune trees 4 years old for eight hundred dollars. This crop was sold on the trees.

Dr. J. H. Miller of Redding P. O., from ¾ of an acre of strawberries near the town, picked three thousand five hundred boxes of berries, which he sold for 12½ cents per box—$437.50 for the crop from ¾ of an acre. He also had fresh strawberrtes on his table for Thanksgiving dinner.

Mr. Jerry Wright of Anderson, from 3½ acres of prune trees 8 years old, received seven hundred and seventy-five dollars ($775).

Hon. T. W. H. Shanahan, from 5 acres of prunes 6 years old, netted $1,400.

Mr. J. H. Wiser, near Shasta City, from ten figs trees 7 years old, made 2,200 pounds of dried figs.

WATER RESOURCES.

By referring to any detail map of California it will be shown that Shasta is the best watered county in the State. Bounded as it is on the northeast and south sides with snow-capped mountain ranges, the streams of pure soft cold waters flowing therefrom towards the southerly center of the county furnish an abundant supply for irrigation and power.

All the habitable portions of this county can be cheaply irrigated. Owing to the great elevations of the surrounding moutains, the sources of all streams, the question of utilizing water as a motor power is simple.

The most important stream is the Sacramento river which, flowing south through the middle of the county, and which is confined in a rocky gorge or cañon to within twenty miles of the southern boundary of the county, offers unlimited opportunities for power and irrigation purposes. The discharge of water at Redding at average low stage is about 3,000 cubic feet per second. For the first fifty miles of the course of the Sacramento river in Shasta County there is not a water power or irrigation ditch taken therefrom, although innumerable small farms needing irrigation, and many active quartz mines needing water power, line both banks of the stream. The tributaries of the Sacramento river in the order of size are: Pit river, which has its rise in an adjoining county, is in Shasta county a bold dashing stream, discharging into the Sacramento river about 2,000 cubic feet per second. For many miles it courses through a heavily timbered region, and for the last twenty miles is confined between precipitate walls of porphyry and quartzite, and could be dammed at many available points so as to furnish an almost unlimited power to the Sacramento Valley.

Immense placer gold deposits are waiting a development. Irrigation combined with placer mining would give an immense revenue each year instead of four months, as is usual when used for irrigation alone. The Pit, like the Sacramento, has not an irrigation ditch or water power on it in Shasta county, although lined on both banks for a great part of its course with farms needing irrigation and timber and mines needing water power. The other principal tributaries of the Sacramento from the west and northwest are Squaw Creek, a bold mountain stream which furnishes a water power for the famous Uncle Sam mine, which runs a 30-stamp quartz mill, and power for working seven power drills in the same mine. Also a power for running a 10-stamp quartz mill on the Snyder mine, and a 10-stamp mill on the Riley mine. 2d. Spring Creek and tributaries which furnishes water power for the Little Nellie, Chicago, Calumet, and other quartz mines.

Clear Creek and tributaries, which furnishes power for the famous Gladstone, American, Washington and other quartz mines, and also furnishing water for the placer mines for a distance of over thirty miles on both sides of Clear Creek,

Whiskytown, Oak Bottom, Manzanita, Muletown, Piety Hill, Igo, Horsetown, Anderson, Happy Valley, Gas Point, Townsend Flat, McCoy's, and also furnishes water for placer mining for a distance of over thirty miles on both sides of Clear Creek.

Cottonwood Creek, rising in the extreme western part of the county, flows easterly on and near the south boundary, furnishes with its tributaries many farms with irrigation water and many placer mines with water for sluicing.

On the east side of the Sacramento, below the mouth of the Pit, are the following: (1.) Churn and Stillwater Creeks, which are small and unimportant streams so far as irrigation and powers are concerned, being dry during the greater part of the summer and autumn when irrigation is needed. (2.) Cow Creek and its tributaries furnish water power for a flouring mill at Milville and several valuable irrigation ditches. (3.) Battle Creek, rising high up in the Sierras, is a large and very rapid stream which flows westerly along the southern boundary, and is noted for furnishing numerous irrigation ditches and a valuable power for the flouring mill at Ball's Ferry.

The tributaries of the Pit River, beginning near its entrance into the county, are as follows: Fall River, a stream about eighty feet wide and six feet in depth, rises in the eastern part of the county from a few immense springs and flows southerly over level cultivated plains a distance, in an air line, of about twelve miles, although the meanders of the stream measure about forty miles, and flows into the Pit at the town of Fall River Mills, over a precipice and rapids eighty feet high, thereby furnishing as fine a water power as there is in the United States. The topography of the famous Fall River Valley, together with the natural manufacturing resources, such as timber, wool, hides, etc., will make this place take a front rank in manufacturing importance in the near future. The valley being nearly level the only practical way of irrigating it is by pumping, gravity ditches, owing to lack of grade, being impracticable. Fall River, at the town of that name, is utilized as a power by a flouring mill, planing mill and furniture factory.

The next tributary southwest is Hat Creek, a stream of pure, cold water, about forty feet wide and three feet deep,

which rises high up near Lassen's Butte, and flows northerly through a heavily timbered country, interspersed with many beautiful meadows, forming in many places falls and rapids, into the Pit. This stream, which *never perceptibly rises nor falls*, and without a solitary tributary, furnishes many dairy ranches on both sides of it with water for irrigation, and is utilized in the way of power only for churning. The opportunity for using this stream offers great inducements, as the stream could be taken out in sufficient amount to irrigate 22,000 acres of land in Burney Valley, about five miles off. To take the water out no dam would be required nor obstacles of any kind encountered, nor riparian rights be infringed. An expenditure of less than $4,000 would cover the flat lands of Burney Valley with an irrigating ditch from this stream—the Queen of the Sierras; in and near this stream may be seen wonderful caverns of obsidian and also of ice, that were formed before Noah started on his famous voyage.

Burney creek rises high up on Burney Mountain over 10,000 feet and flows a northerly course and falls in cascades to Burney Valley, where it sinks in a meadow, and six miles further down the valley rises from an immense spring, flowing a much larger stream, and within 300 feet falls over a precipice 140 feet high, forming one of our most noted falls. This stream both above and below the falls is utilized in a primitive for way irrigation, and at the falls water power is used for operating a small sawmill.

Hatchet Creek, a bold mountain stream, rising in a range of mountains of the same name, is important in that it furnishes a power for operating a sawmill having a capacity of 80,000 feet daily, and furnishing water in a "V" to float the lumber cut at the mill a distance of forty miles, and at the end of said flume, at Bella Vista, operates a sash, door and blind factory and machine shops, after which the water is used for irrigation.

Cow Creeks, North, Middle, South, Old, Oak Run, Clover Creek, Mill Creek and Bear Creek are all noted above.

Numerous *speculative* attempts have heretofore been planned to take water from Manzanita Lake at the base of Lassen Butte, and also take from the Sacramento, Pit and McCloud

Rivers sufficient water for furnishing irrigation and power to the various towns of Northern California, most of which enterprizes, from an engineer's standpoint, are feasible, practicable, and would prove, if completed, profitable.

Had the people of our southern counties such unlimited water and water power within a hundred miles oi them as we have at our very thresholds, all of these vast natural resources would be made available, and our *soil* of the north as compared with the *sand* of the south, would make our fair county the banner county of California.

MINERAL.

The mineral resources of Shasta County are simply wonderful, the entire north half being almost entirely mineral land. Gold, silver, copper and lead are found in veins of quartz. Gold bearing veins are found throughout the mountainous portion of the county, the gold being extracted by the process of amalgamation in mills, or the higher grades, in both gold and silver ore, are shipped to smelters for treatment. Placer mining was extensively carried on until enjoined by the courts, but is now being resumed under conditions as provided by an Act of Congress.

The output of Shasta County for the year 1892 was six hundred and fifty thousand ($650,000) dollars in gold and one hundred and fifty thousand ($150,000) in silver.

Silver is found on the south fork of Clear Creek and Iron Mountain, where large reduction plant has been in operation for several years. This belt of silver can be traced a distance of fully sixty miles northeasterly to Round Mountain, where it is found carrying lead. The formation of the veins is usually slates on one side and porphery on the other. Iron ore suitable for the manufacturing of pig iron is found in extensive deposits near the junction of the Pit and Sacramento rivers. Coal is found near Round Mountain in abundance and of excellent quality. Slate suitable for roofing, and good building stone, is obtainable in many parts of the county. Petroleum and salt being found within a few miles of Redding, the County Seat.

The location of the most extensively developed gold bearing quartz mines is in the Old Diggings and Churntown

Districts on the east side of the Sacramento river, nine miles from Redding; on Squaw Creek, west side of the river five miles from Copely, a station on the California and Oregon Railroad, and at French Gulch and vicinity, this being a noted gold quartz mining section. On Bullychoop Mountain, in the southwest portion of the county, many rich mines have been developed.

Quartz mining in this county is, in a measure, in its infancy, and the development of its resources in this direction but little is known. Though in the past ten years, by rapid transportation by railways, by reduced expenditures for labor and supplies, by improved mining and milling and by systematic and economical management, much development work has been done with most encouraging results.

Shasta county offers a large and remunerative field for mining operations, and capital will do well to look in this direction. The day of unsuccessful experiments and losing investments in mining has gone by; with skilled labor, a knowledge of the veins and ore deposits encountered, intelligent direction and proper economy there is no danger of loss. The success of a mining enterprise rests primarily on the mine itself. If the right sort of property is secured and the management be honest, efficient and practical, success in mining is inevitable.

The history of mining proves that in no financial or mercantile enterprise have the returns for the capital invested been so great, dollar for dollar, as those from gold and silver mines. According to the volume on "Mines and Mining," of the last census, it shows the total value of gold and silver production of the United States for 1889 amounted to $99,283,732, at an expenditure, including supplies, wages, etc., of $63,451,136, or a net profit on the production of about thirty-five per cent. The fact is beyond any kind of question, and it is being recognized by investors that mining as an industry is strictly legitimate, and under proper management gives most generous returns; such men as Mackay, Flood, Fair, and many other millionaires of this coast being living evidence of what may be done in mining. Their wealth was obtained in mining operations, and it represents intelligent application of good sense and business skill to the management of our mines.

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